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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 16 October 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Al-Hinai ..... (Oman)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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01-58250 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 27: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.3/56/L.11)

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.11 entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly"

1. **Ms. Leyton** (Chile) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.11 on behalf of the sponsors listed and Algeria, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guyana, Israel, Morocco, New Zealand, Slovenia, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia.

2. **The Chairman** announced that Angola, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Senegal and the Sudan also wished to sponsor the draft resolution.

Agenda item 108: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/C.3/56/L.2, L.7, L.8, L.9 and L.10)

Draft resolutions A/C.3/56/L.2 and L.7 entitled "Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family"

3. **Ms. Elisha** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.2 and the amendments to it contained in document A/C.3/56/L.7. She announced that Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, the Niger, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.8 entitled "Cooperatives in social development"

4. **Ms. Enkhsetseg** (Mongolia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that cooperatives played an important role in social development, and that there remained a need to create a supportive environment for cooperatives. A revised text of the draft resolution would be submitted based on the results of informal consultations. The Dominican Republic, Morocco and the Philippines had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.9 entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century"

5. **Ms. Garcia** (the Philippines), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that in paragraph 3, the words "for maintaining" should be replaced by "to monitor". Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Italy, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the Republic of Korea and Uganda had joined the sponsors.

6. **The Chairman** said that Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, the Dominican Republic and Suriname also wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.10 entitled "A United Nations literacy decade: education for all"

7. **Ms. Enkhsetseg** (Mongolia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that Bangladesh, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Israel, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and Suriname had joined the sponsors.

8. **The Chairman** announced that Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania had also joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 109: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/C.3/56/L.6)

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.6 entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing"

9. **Mr. Alaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that ageing was closely linked to development. The follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons must be action-oriented, and the long-term strategy should include realistic recommendations for the financing of its implementation. He urged the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/56/3, 83, 151, 155, 222, 380, A/56/402-E/2001/105 and A/56/403)

Agenda item 111: International drug control (*continued*) (A/56/3, 83, 157, 222 and 468)

10. **Mr. Hla Myint** (Myanmar) said that, although Myanmar was a developing country with its own share of economic problems, it was firmly committed to the elimination of illicit drugs. From September 1988 to April 2001 law-enforcement agencies had seized vast quantities of drugs, including opium and heroin, and precursor chemicals. The destruction of those substances had been witnessed by officials from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the international community. However, these efforts had not been appreciated as fully as they should have been.

11. Myanmar was unfortunate in that its geographic conditions and many decades of armed insurgency in border areas had made those areas conducive to the growing of illicit crops. He would refrain from reminding the Committee of how opium had been introduced to his country and who had initiated its refining into heroin; instead, he would explain the sincere efforts being made despite the lack of resources. Areas under illicit crops had many factors in common, such as isolation, lack of peace and stability, underdevelopment and poverty. For decades, peace had eluded those parts of Myanmar located within the infamous "Golden Triangle". The hill tribes in those areas had depended on opium-poppy cultivation to sustain themselves. In the past, physical destruction of poppy fields had been the focus of the national drug-suppression plan, and while that approach might seem very appealing, it was not a sustainable method unless alternative sources of income were offered. Myanmar was implementing a new approach; in 1989, ceasefire agreements had been reached with the insurgent groups. Although the country's budget was severely strained, considerable sums had been spent on development programmes exclusively for the border areas.

12. It was not possible to transform the situation instantly in what had for many decades been a no-man's-land. However, the Government had striven together with the leaders of the national races to improve socio-economic conditions in the border areas, through education and creating awareness of the dangers of narcotic drugs, and by developing alternative sources of income. Its efforts had not been in vain: for example, the Mongla Region in eastern Myanmar, where production of opium had formerly been prolific, had been opium-free since 1997 and leaders in other regions had committed themselves to achieving the same goal in the near future. His Government was grateful to China, Japan and Thailand, for their assistance in the cultivation of substitute crops.

13. The Government had succeeded in greatly reducing opium cultivation. Whether or not its efforts were recognized, his Government was determined to carry on the fight with whatever resources it had. The destruction caused by narcotics knew no border, race or creed; no one was immune to the threat they posed, and Myanmar was no exception; it was not a culprit but a victim. His Government was encouraged that UNDCP was currently assisting it in developing alternatives to opium-poppy cultivation. Myanmar had further strengthened cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against narcotic drugs, and was in the second year of its 15-year plan for their total elimination. That plan would target 51 drug-cultivating and -producing townships, covering a broad spectrum of supply and demand elimination, law enforcement, community participation and international cooperation activities, and the estimated budget for the plan was $150 million.

14. The national authorities continued to pursue all means to tighten control measures for precursor chemicals in cooperation with other countries of East Asia and other regions, and was grateful to the

authorities in a number of countries which had provided training to field offices in Myanmar, enabling them to identify precursor chemicals. His Government was encouraged by the Secretary-General's recognition of its efforts in poppy eradication, and a recent report by the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention stating that poppy cultivation in Myanmar during the past decade had been cut by 40 per cent. Such progress had been achieved not by words or financial resources alone, but by sweat and blood. He reaffirmed Myanmar's total commitment to fighting illicit drugs. The goal of eradication would be achieved more quickly if international assistance was received; he therefore appealed to the international community to help the world fight drugs by helping Myanmar.

15. **Mr. Navaratnarajah** (Sri Lanka) said that the items under discussion were very important to both developing and developed countries. Globalization contributed to the increasingly transnational nature of crime- and drug-related problems, and the past decade had exacerbated transnational crime, which had acquired a new dynamism. The activities of terrorist groups and criminal organizations in any country posed serious threats to other countries and a formidable challenge to the international community; they endangered democratic processes and institutions, the rule of law, economic development and international peace and security. Cooperation among those groups and organizations had reached levels of sophistication which could be countered only through concerted international action; such action was needed to interdict the means of financing of criminal groups and terrorist organizations, which derived massive funds from such activities as trafficking in persons, money-laundering and the smuggling of drugs and weapons.

16. A significant recent event in the fight against transnational crime had been the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, annexed to General Assembly resolutions 55/25 and 55/255 respectively. Sri Lanka had become a party to the Convention and to the first two protocols, and hoped that those instruments would provide the foundation for decisive measures against the various forms of transnational crime. International action was also urgently needed to curb the acquisition of arms and ammunition by terrorist and criminal organizations. The recent adoption of the third protocol, on the regulation of firearms, provided a very important legal framework to that end. The Programme of Action adopted at the recent United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects provided a good foundation for international cooperation, but his Government would have preferred a more ambitious programme.

17. It was a matter of concern to his delegation that, as described in paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's report (A/56/155), there was a danger that lack of resources might adversely affect the future work of the expert group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/127 to prepare a study on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives and their use for criminal purposes. The expert group should be provided with the necessary resources to conduct its work effectively.

18. As for the issue of international drug control, he expressed appreciation to the relevant United Nations agencies for their continuing close collaboration with Sri Lanka on measures to reduce demand for and supply of illicit drugs. Despite resource constraints, his Government was implementing the various United Nations instruments in that field through both legislative and policy measures. Significant progress had been achieved in the formulation of a legislative framework to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug-related crime.

19. **Mr. Amorós Núñez** (Cuba) said that, while globalization was increasing the degree of interdependence among peoples, it was also widening the gap between the richest countries and the developing economies, and offering unprecedented opportunities to criminals throughout the world. Thanks to globalization, the world's most powerful mafia organizations were gaining an estimated $1,500 billion per year — taking advantage of developments in trade, transport and information technology and of the liberalization of financial transactions — and were reaping huge profits from trafficking in drugs and in persons, particularly women and girls, and from money-laundering.

20. Those problems could be dealt with only through cooperation, and United Nations forums on crime prevention and criminal justice offered the best framework for such cooperation. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols represented a milestone in that area. His Government strongly supported the work of the

Expert Group which was working towards the adoption of an international legal instrument against corruption, which was considered a particularly heinous offence in Cuba and was being fought by all available legislative means.

21. Respect for international law and for the domestic legislation of all States was central to international cooperation in crime prevention. Each country's domestic legislation must ensure that crime, whether or not it had international repercussions, was dealt with appropriately within that country; however, at a time when major international efforts were in hand to punish international criminals involved in the smuggling of migrants, a law which had been in force in the United States of America for 35 years still encouraged potential illegal migrants from Cuba and the actions of criminals from the United States who were involved in trafficking in persons. Many Cubans seeking authorization to enter the United States legally were turned away, and yet migrants were welcomed when they sought to enter that country through illicit and often mortally dangerous means. The United States Government applied that policy only to Cuban citizens. Owing to the lack of strong measures in the United States, those who smuggled migrants could carry on that trafficking with impunity. More than 70 such criminals were in prison in Cuba, but in the United States only two or three had been punished and the sanctions against them had been derisory.

22. Certain States had failed to show the political will to cooperate with others in fighting crime, including serious offences such as trafficking in drugs and in persons, despite the fact that those phenomena were generated, and in some cases encouraged, within the territory of those States. Furthermore, the international community was currently witnessing a rapid upsurge in unilateral actions supposedly intended to combat international crime. Yet such policies made it more difficult to deal with such a complex problem. The only viable option was to intensify international cooperation in that field as a matter of urgency.

23. **Ms. Neskorozhana** (Ukraine) said that her country was deeply concerned by the increasing threat that organized crime and the illicit drug problem posed to the secure, peaceful and healthy development of nations. Such problems could be addressed only through international cooperation as well as improved coordination of national and international efforts.

24. Ukraine had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and would be signing the three protocols shortly. Those instruments marked a step forward in the international fight against organized crime, particularly by reinforcing judicial cooperation. The recent adoption by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Plans of Action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice provided guidance to Member States and the Secretariat for meeting the commitments made by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in Vienna in April 2000 and for implementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

25. Ukraine had repeatedly condemned all forms of international terrorism and it was of particular concern that terrorist organizations were financed by other criminal activities. Enhancing the potential of the United Nations to fight international terrorism should go beyond merely strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. Technological progress had introduced new threats to the security and well-being of humanity. Computer terrorism and computer-related crimes were obvious examples of such threats and should be reflected in future legal instruments.

26. Another concern was the close links between transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, since it was no secret that the illegal arms trade and people trafficking were financed with the proceeds of the illegal drug trade. Governments had the principal responsibility for implementing the measures adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on countering the world drug problem. At the same time, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should continue to play a catalytic role in the fight against new trends in drug abuse, in raising international awareness and in consolidating the political commitment of the international community.

27. Illustrating its commitment to meeting international standards, Ukraine had recently adopted a new criminal code, which criminalized drug production, use and trafficking and related activities as well as the creation of organized crime groups or the abetting of such groups. It was to be hoped that the activities of UNDCP and the Centre for International

Crime Prevention would take into account the specific problems of countries with transition economies.

28. **Mr. Mwakawago** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement by the representative of Zambia on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The events of 11 September 2001 had demonstrated that transnational organized crime, to which terrorism was closely linked, was a global concern and required global action. Consequently, the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols was a significant step in international cooperation against organized crime, and it was encouraging to know that the Centre for International Crime Prevention was already providing technical assistance to some countries.

29. His Government was fully committed to the fight against crime and illicit drugs, and had enacted legislation imposing harsher penalties on those convicted of drug trafficking in order to harmonize its legislation with its obligations under the international instruments it had ratified. State programmes for drug rehabilitation and for raising awareness of drug abuse had also been established. Alone, the country lacked the resources and capacity to achieve the desired results; hence it was important that its development partners increased their assistance.

30. In cooperation with its SADC partners, his Government had adopted programmes for exchanging information to combat money-laundering, and plans were under way to set up the headquarters of the SADC money-laundering unit in Dar es Salaam. Joint training programmes for law-enforcement officers had also been established and laws were being harmonized to facilitate prosecution. Furthermore, members of SADC had recently signed a protocol on firearms and ammunition; in that respect, the support of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the European Union and other bilateral donors was greatly appreciated.

31. The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) had played an important role in enhancing regional cooperation in response to the challenges posed by organized crime. Provided it was given the required support and resources, it had the potential to play a vital role.

32. The United Republic of Tanzania had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, but — like other developing countries — needed increased assistance in order to implement it. The Convention provided a tool against organized crime; global cooperation was required in order to use it.

33. **Ms. Otiti** (Uganda) said that the tragic events of 11 September 2001 had exposed the world to crime in a dimension that curtailed the fundamental human rights to freedom and life. Uganda was committed to working with the international community to end terrorism and crime. It was encouraging that terrorism was a priority on the United Nations agenda and that the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was taking steps to prevent crime more effectively. Regional and national institutions, such as UNAFRI, should also be provided with adequate resources to ensure that they are able to collaborate with international institutions.

34. Despite its current financial situation, UNAFRI had been able to conduct a regional survey on illicit trafficking in firearms and taken part in several regional and international meetings on crime prevention. Increased cooperation with other institutes, such as the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the future UNAFRI firearms centre, should help monitor the region. The true potential of the Institute could be realized only if it received adequate funding. While grateful for the bilateral assistance received, her delegation hoped that, through the United Nations, further multilateral resources would be forthcoming.

35. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols would strengthen the global effort against crime. Although developing countries still faced constraints, owing to poverty and disease, the increased drive to fight terrorism would help strengthen national institutions for crime prevention, law enforcement and criminal-justice administration. It would be recalled that Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania had been affected by terrorist attacks in recent years and Uganda had also been a target, although the attack had been prevented, owing to improved legislative measures. The three countries were working together to establish a programme against terrorism that met international standards.

36. **Mr. O'Brien** (Australia), also speaking on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that, despite global efforts, drug abuse continued to inflict massive suffering throughout the world. While domestic policies would always be important in dealing with the impact of drug abuse, the drug threat was global, and effective action to control the drug trade had to be underpinned by concerted international cooperation.

37. International efforts to implement the objectives of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had achieved significant success in some areas, most notably crop eradication and substitution. However, new technologies had given impetus to the development of new substances and to the exploitation of new markets and new operating methods by transnational criminal groups. In many countries the use of amphetamine-type substances, particularly by young people, presented a challenge to the health, social and law-enforcement sectors and served as a reminder that the drug threat was dynamic.

38. The global narcotics trade exploited social, economic and political vulnerabilities. To be fully effective, international responses had to encompass equally diverse objectives, including more robust State institutions, economic development, education and training, and health and rehabilitation programmes. Collaborative partnerships that maximized the strengths of each partner were essential at every level of international cooperation against drugs. Drug-control programmes needed to be fully complementary so as to minimize waste of scarce resources. The global fight against drugs also had to take into account the complexity of the issues underlying drug abuse and the flexibility of transnational crime groups, which frequently combined their drug operations with other forms of organized crime.

39. The overriding objective of transnational organized crime was the generation of profits. It was therefore important to improve cooperation so as to deny transnational criminal access to the proceeds of crime. The UNDCP Global Programme against Money Laundering was making a valuable contribution and Member States were urged to collaborate with international institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force.

40. Australia believed that widespread ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime would lead to a significant harmonization of the international legal framework applying to organized crime, which would facilitate more effective international cooperation in the prosecution of members of transnational organized crime groups.

41. As the only agency with a global mandate to combat the drug trade, UNDCP was central to collective efforts in that field. Australia, Canada and New Zealand welcomed its achievements and remained committed to working with it. At its forty-fourth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted a resolution calling on UNDCP to continue efforts to improve both its management and the coordination of multilateral drug-control initiatives. Full implementation of the recommendations in the report on the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/56/83) was essential to ensuring that UNDCP was managed in an open, transparent and effective manner.

42. In view of the relentless and global nature of the drug threat it was imperative that efforts increased their momentum. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to those efforts and urged all Member States to strengthen their partnerships with each other and with UNDCP and other relevant multilateral agencies.

43. **Ms. Jarbussynova** (Kazakhstan), speaking also on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, said that despite concerted efforts to combat the drug problem, international security continued to be threatened, as did the health, lives and dignity of millions of people. The link between drugs and terrorism, money-laundering, smuggling, and transnational organized crime was a particular cause for concern, as was increasing drug abuse among young people. In order to combat the problem, coordinated international action was required, involving a strengthened role for the United Nations. The Secretary-General's efforts in that connection were much appreciated.

44. As part of their joint efforts to combat illicit trafficking, countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had strengthened their cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, including in legislative matters, and were ensuring follow-up at national level. Armed with the capacity to

analyse the development of the drug situation throughout the region, those countries were now able to engage in joint planning.

45. The situation in Afghanistan was of particular concern, especially since Central Asian countries had become a transit area for drugs trafficked from South-West Asia to markets in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Western Europe, inter alia. In 2000 alone, the Tadjik and Russian authorities had together seized 3.8 tons of drugs. Trafficking in heroin, in particular, had more than doubled over the past two years. The countries on whose behalf he spoke wished to reaffirm their strong commitment towards full cooperation with the United Nations and international community in the fight against drugs.

46. **Mr. Madej** (Poland) said that priority should be given to combating international organized crime and corruption, which were frequently interrelated. An effective response required the enactment and implementation of comprehensive and multidimensional national legislation.

47. Economic factors played a crucial role in combating organized crime and corruption; therefore, efforts should be concentrated not only on prosecuting and punishing offenders, but also on eliminating the illegal profits generated by crime. In that respect, Poland had recently introduced changes to its legislation to strengthen the relevant national authorities and give them new faculties. It had also amended the Criminal Code to enable courts to order the confiscation of property if, even indirectly, it had been obtained from criminal activities.

48. Strong international cooperation at all levels was necessary to combat transnational organized crime. International organizations had an essential role to play, particularly the United Nations, within which the international legal instruments that formed the basis for international cooperation, such as the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, were drafted and adopted. Poland was in the process of ratifying the Convention; however, its legislation already reflected to a great extent the standards established therein. Another extremely important task for the United Nations was the preparation of an international legal instrument against corruption, and Poland strongly supported that initiative. In recent years, it had taken part in many activities related to the preparation of legal instruments on corruption in the context of the European Community and had acceded to the relevant conventions.

49. **Mr. Zainuddin** (Malaysia) said that globalization had given rise to a plethora of transnational crimes. International economic crimes were also on the increase owing to advances in new information technologies. His Government welcomed the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, which testified to international resolve to fight the global menace of drugs. The negotiations under way on an international legal instrument against corruption were also most welcome. Cognizant of the fact that corruption undermined the values of democracy and jeopardized social, economic and political development, his Government had established an independent mechanism to investigate allegations of corruption. Firm action was also being taken to bring to justice those engaged in corruption, whatever their standing in society.

50. The events of 11 September had underscored the urgency of combating terrorism — possibly the most complex security challenge facing the international communit. Measures levied against terrorism must, however, be consistent with universally recognized principles governing international relations, and with international law. The horrific acts of 11 September had far-reaching consequences, including in the area of international drug control. It was a matter of concern that the success that had been achieved in stemming poppy cultivation in Afghanistan was now in danger of being reversed. Moreover, the humanitarian crisis following air strikes by the United States on Afghanistan, and the lack of aid to former poppy owners, made it difficult to sustain the ban. Seriously concerned at civilian casualties in the ongoing military offensive, his delegation called for the targeting of sites near populated areas to cease. In view of the enormity of the developing refugee problem, humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan should be immediately resumed.

51. As evidence of its strong commitment to United Nations drug-control efforts and to collective action at all levels, his Government had taken every measure to ensure compliance with relevant international instruments. Its national drug policy aimed to eliminate the demand for and supply of illicit drugs with a view to creating a drug-free generation by 2023. Steps had also been taken to criminalize and combat money-

laundering, including through the establishment of the relevant intergovernmental machinery.

52. **Mr. Jalang'o** (Kenya) said that the events of September 11 had galvanized international efforts to tackle the problem of terrorism; his own Government fully supported measures based on relevant United Nations resolutions, and would continue to support all international efforts to eradicate terrorism.

53. Kenya had become a major transit country for drugs, with conflicts in neighbouring countries only making security and customs measures more inadequate. In an effort to curb the illicit import of small arms and light weapons — a phenomenon that went hand in hand with the drug trade — the Government had closed one of its borders in August. It was also taking action to address the acute poverty and increased unemployment that had made the youth of Kenya so susceptible to drugs. As part of its commitment to fighting crime and drugs, the Government had also established additional police, customs, legislative and institutional machinery. It also collaborated with international security agencies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), and with the United Nations and various bilateral partners.

54. The statements by UNDCP had failed to emphasize the magnitude of Africa's drug-trafficking problem, given their focus on Asia and Europe. His delegation thus welcomed the European Union's appeal to UNDCP to provide optimum support for sustainable anti-drug programmes in Africa. It also called upon the goodwill of the donor community and the United Nations system to help UNDCP mobilize the resources it needed to perform its mandate more effectively.

55. **Mr. Alhaji Bello Lafiaji** (Nigeria) said that the attacks of 11 September demonstrated how international criminals and terrorists could take advantage of technology and the free flow of information to destroy lives and property. His delegation welcomed the efforts made towards elaboration of a convention against corruption in the hope that the instrument would facilitate the tracing of transfers of illicit funds. Given that corruption constituted a well-known impediment to socio-economic development, his Government was intent on tackling the problem at the national level and had instituted legislative and other measures to that end.

56. The magnitude of the threat of international organized crime was further exacerbated by drug production and trafficking, which constituted a harbinger of most violent crimes and other criminal activities. As part of its commitment to the fight against drugs, the Government had implemented effective preventive and enforcement measures, which had led to a substantial increase in the number of drug seizures, arrests and prosecutions in the past year alone. Plans were also under way to strengthen subregional cooperation with a view to institutionalizing the exchange of intelligence and to strengthening joint cross-border operations.

57. In view of the acute need to improve training for drug-law enforcement and prevention in Africa, regional training facilities were being strengthened. At the national level also, the Government was addressing drug-demand reduction through comprehensive campaigns that included the incorporation of drug-abuse education in school curricula.

58. Lastly, his delegation wished to stress the importance of conducting research into new local substitutes for hard drugs, such as the wild zakami plant found in northern Nigeria.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.